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SRI AUROBINDO - THE MOTHER

(AN INTRODUCTION)



SRI AUROBINDO

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SRI AUROBINDO - THE MOTHER

(An Introduction)

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Sri Aurobindo, the third son of Dr. Krishna Dhana Khoshi and Swarnalatha Devi, the daughter of a famous patriot Rishi Raj Narayan Bose, was born on 15th August 1872. Though his mother tongue was Bengali, he was brought up in the atmosphere of English environment, because his father was an ardent admirer of the British and their language.

At the age of five he and his two elder brothers were admitted at Loretto Convent in Darjeeling. At the age of seven he was left in the house of Mr. W.H. Drewett in England. He learnt English, History, Geography, Mathematics, French etc. from Mr. Drewett. In 1884 Sri Aurobindo joined St. Paul School in London. During his five years at St. Paul's, Sri Aurobindo, securing many prizes in literature and history, was an outstanding student.

He began to write poems at the age of seven itself. They were published in 'Family Magazine' and Fox's weekly. He got Scholarship in St. Paul School in 1889 and joined the King's College Cambridge.

As desired by his father, Sri Aurobindo wrote the Indian civil examination and passed. Since he did not have any desire to join the civil service, he got himself disqualified in horse riding test without himself rejecting the service which his family would not have allowed him to do.

Sri Aurobindo joined a secret society named "Lotus and Dagger" formed by the Indian students in London, in order to work for India's freedom. Indian independence was his goal.

In 1893 he accepted the invitation of the Gaekwar of Baroda and returned to India and served in his kingdom. At the same time he worked as English professor in Maharaja College in Baroda. In 1901 he married Mirunalini Devi in Calcutta.

While in Kashmir on a visit to the Sankaracharya Hill in 1903 he experienced the vacant infinite in a very tangible way. From 1904 he began to practice yoga. He resigned his job in the kingdom of Baroda and joined the National College at Calcutta as Principal in 1906.

On Bipin Chandra Paul's request, Sri Aurobindo took on editing 'Bande Mataram'. He wrote much in Bande Mataram. The British felt that the magazine was the herald of Indian revolution. Sri Aurobindo was held responsible as its editor for propogating sedition and arrested in 1907. But later he was acquitted for want of proof.

A bomb was thrown at the carriage of Magistrate Kingsford. It was done by revolutionists. But Sri Aurobindo who had no connection with the incident was arrested at his residence. The government put him in Alipore Jail. This is the famous Alipore Conspiracy case. Chittaranjan Das appeared for Sri Aurobindo and won the trial and Sri Aurobindo was released in May 1909.

While in jail he read Bhagawad Gita as a guidance to his yogas. Waves of spiritual experience came to him inside the jail. Swami Vivekananda (who was no more at that time) appeared continuously for fifteen days before Sri Aurobindo in jail and taught him to obtain Mahasakthi.

Sri Aurobindo now brought out two weeklies in 1909 the 'Dharma' in Bengali and the 'Karma Yogi' in English. Guided by his inner Voice he went to Pondicherry in 1910.

He stayed in Pondicherry and practised yoga. There he had the chance to move closely with the great poet Bharathi. He published the magazine 'Arya' in 1914. Sri Aurobindo's wife Mirunalini Devi died of influenza in 1918. Sri Aurobindo attained Siddhi in 1926.

On 21st February 1878, a divine female child was born to a bank officer. She was named Mira. She was brought up with strict discipline and affection. From her childhood Mira had both spiritual power and deep meditating capacity. In 1914 she came to know that a great soul named. Sri Aurobindo dwells in Pondicherry. She came to India. Her meeting with Sri Aurobindo was a turning point in her life. She felt that the person whom she saw in her dreams and the person whom she called Krishna and Sri Aurobindo were one and the same. When the First world war broke out Mira went to her motherland France and returned to India in 1920 and settled down permanently in Pondicherry. She was hailed as the Mother and an avathar (incarnation) of Parasakthi by Sri Aurobindo.

The Mother converted the small unit which was functioning in a house with few disciples into an Ashram. In 1920 Sri Aurobindo

expanded the Ashram with the help of the Mother and did many good things. Then Sri Aurobindo achieved the overmind paving the way for the descent of a new force Supermind. Sri Aurobindo wanted to bring down this supramental consciousness, which is higher than the overmind, to this world and promote man into a higher phase of evolution. To accomplish this he entrusted the Ashram to the Mother and lived in seclusion.

Sri Aurobindo applied his spiritual power for the victory of the allied forces, for he saw in his seer vision that Hitler's triumph would mean a great setback in the scheme of human evolution. It was because of his yogic power that the trend of the war changed and Hitler lost the war.

The Mother started a School in 1943. The same School became Sri Aurobindo International Centre of Education in 1952 and is being run as a world renowned institution even today.

India became independent on 15th August which by a remarkable coincidence was also the birthday of Sri Aurobindo. His long cherished dream had at last come true. At this

time the supermind descended on him. Had it continued, his body would have become immortal. Sri Aurobindo did not want to achieve such personal siddhi. Hence he decided to sacrifice his body which was turning gold in colour. For the benefit of the human society Sri Aurobindo left his body on 5th December 1950 at the age of 78. His body ^aremained luminous without any sign of decomposition for five days. His body was laid to rest in Mahasamadhi on 9th December 1950.

The Mother founded a new town Auroville, ten miles from Pondicherry as a centre for integration. There is no disparity in Auroville. Love and harmony are the aims of this institution. The Mother used to participate in various activities until 1962. After that She remained in her cell and watched the functioning of the Ashram and the events of the world. The Mother attained Samadhi on the 17th of November 1973.

As a result of the yoga of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother and the sacrifice of the luminous body by Sri Aurobindo the supermind descended on earth once again on 29th February 1956. It took shape and appeared before the Mother on the 1st of January in 1969.

The Ashram which had only 150 disciples in the begining has about 1900 Sadhakas now. Many foreigners have come here in search of peace and love and stay here permanently. The Ashram provides food and clothes to them. The Sadhakas reside in 100 buildings approximately. Even today we can see, here, the things used by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. We can feel their bliss. There is no pomp or publicity here.

The Mother has predicted in 1968 that there will not be a third world war. Let us hope that her prediction comes true and once again the Supermind descends and paves the way, not only for India but also for the whole world to live in harmony.

Educational Philosophy of Sri Aurobindo

Sri Aurobindo's thoughts reflect the philosophy in the national, international and spiritual level. Hence his educational philosophy is also based on the same line.

The spiritual power, divine in every qualities and wholeness dwell in every person on earth. The main aim of education should be to bring out these qualities in the growing child.

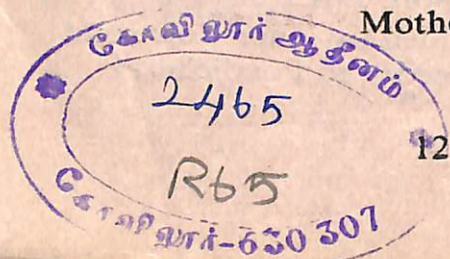
Sri Aurobindo wanted the soul, mind, body and energy to involve in education. In the opinion of Sri Aurobindo the aim of education should be not only to acquire worldly knowledge but also to inculcate the spiritual gnana.

At this period when the good qualities have diminished and destructive forces are innumerable, the vigour of the Rakshasas leads to the path of deterioration due to the vanishing moral and spiritual power, and it is apt that we follow the educational philosophy of Sri Aurobindo.

IMPORTANT EVENTS**Dates****Events**

15th August 1872	Birth of Sri Aurobindo
21st February 1878	Birth of The Mother
1879	Sri Aurobindo's journey to England
1884-89	Studies at St. Paul
1890	Education in the university of Cambridge
1892	Member of the secret society Lotus and the Dagger
1893	Return to Motherland-Joined the Baroda government service
1901	Marriage with Mirunalini Devi
1903	Experienced the divinity of yoga
1904	Commencement of Yogic life
1906	Editor of Bande Mataram Principal of the National college
1908	Arrested in Alipore Conspiracy case
1909	Acquitted and returned from Alipore Jail
1910	Guided by inner Voice and proceeded to Pondicherry

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| 1914 | Published a new monthly
'Arya' |
| 15th August 1914 | Meeting with the Mother |
| 1915 | Mother returns to France |
| 1918 | Death of Mirunalini Devi |
| 1920 | The Mother joins the
Ashram of Pondichery |
| 1926 | Descent of a new force, the
Supermind, on Sri Aurobindo |
| 1943 | Establishment of School in
Pondicherry by the Mother |
| 1947 | India becomes independent
The goal is achieved |
| 1950 | Sri Aurobindo left his body
and Mahasamathi of
Sri Aurobindo
The Mother learns yoga |
| 1952 | Named the School as the
International centre of
education |
| 29th February 1956 | The descendance of
Supermind on earth |
| 1968 | Inception of the Auroville |
| 1973 | The Mahasamadhi of the
Mother |



Epilogue :

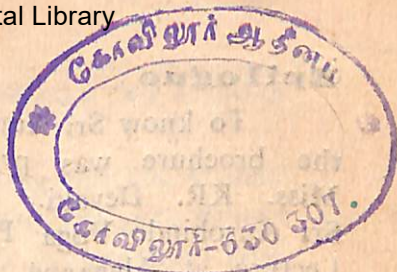
To know Sri Aurobindo and the Mother, the brochure was prepared in Tamil by Miss. KR. Devaki. This was read in Sri Aurobindo Yoga Philosophy Endowment Lecture at Alagappa University Auditorium, Alagappapuram, Karaikudi-623 003 (Tamilnadu) Now, we bring the English translation. I thank the various learned persons who have helped me in this endeavour.

May Sri Aurobindo and the Mother's grace and blessings for prosperity and spiritual advancement shower on all of us.

With best compliments from :

Gokul Bala Vidhyalaya

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THE MOTHER

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